

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound which is highly selective for CRFR1 without having any significant cross-reactivity for corticotropin-releasing-factor-receptor-2 (CRFR2) and/or corticotropin-releasing-factor-binding protein (CRFBP), said compound comprising or alternatively consisting of the amino acid sequence

Glx¹-Gly²-Pro³-Pro⁴-Xaa⁵-Ser⁶-Xaa⁷-Asp⁸-Leu⁹-Xaa¹⁰-Leu¹¹-Glu¹²-Leu¹³-Leu¹⁴-Arg¹⁵-Glu¹⁶-Val¹⁷-
Leu¹⁸-Glu¹⁹-Xaa²⁰-Xaa²¹-Arg²²-Ala²³-Xaa²⁴-Gln²⁵-Leu²⁶-Ala²⁷-Gln²⁸-Gln²⁹-Ala³⁰-Ala³¹-Asn³²-Asn³³-
Arg³⁴-Leu³⁵-Leu³⁶-Leu³⁷-Asp³⁸-Thr³⁹-Ala⁴⁰ (SEQID No: 1).

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein:

- (a) Xaa⁵ is lie, Leu or any amino acid residue having similar physicochemical characteristics as lie; and/or
- (b) Xaa⁷ is Ile, Leu or an amino acid residue having similar physicochemical characteristics as Ile; and/or
- (c) Xaa¹⁰ is Ser, Thr or an amino acid residue having similar physicochemical characteristics as Serin; and/or
- (d) Xaa²⁰ is Met, Norleucine or any amino acid residue having similar physicochemical characteristics as Met; and/or
- (e) Xaa²¹ is Glu, Asp or an amino acid residue having similar physicochemical characteristics as Glu; and/or
- (f) Xaa²⁴ is Glu, Asp or an amino acid residue having similar physicochemical characteristics as Glu.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1 or 2 which is Glx¹-Gly²-Pro³-Pro⁴-Ile⁵-Ser⁶-Ile⁷-Asp⁸-Leu⁹-Ser¹⁰-Leu¹¹-Glu¹²-Leu¹³-Leu¹⁴-Arg¹⁵-Glu¹⁶-Val¹⁷-Leu¹⁸-Glu¹⁹-Met²⁰-Glu²¹-Arg²²-Ala²³-Glu²⁴-Gln²⁵-Leu²⁶-Ala²⁷-Gln²⁸-Gln²⁹-Ala³⁰-Ala³¹-Asn³²-Asn³³-Arg³⁴-Leu³⁵-Leu³⁶-Leu³⁷-Asp³⁸-Thr³⁹-Ala⁴⁰ (SEQ ID No: 2).

4. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding the compound of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

5. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 which is labelled.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 which is modified by:

- (a) formation of pharmaceutical acceptable salts;
- (b) formation of pharmaceutically acceptable complexes; and/or
- (c) synthesis of pharmacologically active polymers.

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of ~~any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 6 or 7~~ claim 1 and/or the nucleic acid ~~of claim 4~~ and/or the vector ~~of claim 5~~ and optionally a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier and/or diluent.

9. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising the compound of ~~any one of claims 1,2, 3,6 or 7~~ claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising the compound of ~~any one of claims 1,2, 3,6 or 7~~ claim 1 and/or the nucleic acid ~~of claim 4~~ and/or the vector ~~of claim 5~~ and optionally instructions to use.

11. (Currently Amended) Use of the compound of ~~any one of claims 1,2, 3,6 or 7~~ claim 1 and/or the nucleic acid ~~of claim 4~~ and/or the vector ~~of claim 5~~ for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of depression.

12. (Original) The use of claim 11, wherein said depression is exogenic (like pharmacogenic), endogenic (like vital), psychogenic, agitated, anaclitic, arteriosclerotic, reactive and/or senile depression.

13. (Currently Amended) Use of the compound of ~~any one of claims 1,2, 3,6 or 7~~ claim 1 for the preparation of a diagnostic composition for the determination of pituitary corticotroph responsiveness.

14. (Original) The use of claim 13 for differentiating pituitary and ectopic production of ACTH in patients with ACTH-dependent Cushing's syndrome.